

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given by the applicants to the Examiner's comments and rejection of the claims, as set forth in the outstanding Office Action, and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, as amended, is earnestly solicited.

Reverting to the Examiner's grounds of rejection, applicants note that the Examiner is of the opinion that the prior art, notwithstanding the previously presented claims and arguments is still renders the invention obvious to one skilled in this particular technology.

Concerning the foregoing, applicants note the rejection of Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 13, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Darbee, et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,130,726 and Donnelly, U.S. Patent No. 6,460,181 B1, as previously cited and extensively discussed in the Office Action.

Furthermore, applicants note that the Examiner's analysis of the application of the prior art with respect to the individual claims.

Moreover, applicants note the rejection of Claims 6 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the previously cited references further in view of Huang, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,437,836.

However, upon careful consideration of the art, applicants respectfully submit that the claims being presented herewith for the Examiner's consideration are deemed to patentably distinguish thereover, irrespective as to whether the cited publications are considered singly or in combination.

In particular, reverting to Darbee, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,130,726, applicant respectfully reiterates the arguments previously presented in connection therewith.

However, in order to more clearly emphasize the distinctions, applicants note that the EPG (electronic program guide) data received in the program display and selecting apparatus 10 from the digital broadcast receiver 50 facilitates the selection of a program on a monitor screen of a television monitor which facilitates the outputting of the program on the television monitor screen in the absence of any display interruption caused by the EPG data. In essence, the EPG data is displayed on a program table 78, preferably through an LCD display 12 on a monitor screen of the program display and selection apparatus 10 which is remote from the digital broadcast receiver 50 and which is able to provide for a selection of programs through a TV output cable 74 to the monitor screen 72 of the TV monitor without interruption of any kind of the program being broadcast on that screen.

The foregoing function and components of the digital broadcast receiving system which uses the separate constituents constituted of the digital broadcast receiver 50, the program display and selection apparatus 10 and the TV monitor 70 is not at all disclosed nor even suggested in Darbee, et al.

Although a program drive in Darbee, et al. is displayed on a remote control display this is essentially a portion of a remote unit, preferably such as a handheld controller, and does not facilitate the transmission of the EPG data from a digital broadcast receiver to a program display and selection apparatus which is remote therefrom through the intermediary of an IR transmitter and receiver unit 14, 58, and enables the selection of a program and outputting thereof onto the TV screen 72 of a TV monitor 70 in a manner analogous to that presented by the present invention.

Accordingly, that particular aspect has now been emphasized in the independent Claims 1 and 8 setting forth the unique uninterrupted outputting of the program on the television monitor screen in the absence of any display interruption caused by the transmission and utilization of the EPG data encountered between the digital broadcast receiver and the remote program display and selection apparatus. Consequently, both as to function and structure the present invention as claimed clearly distinguishes over Darbee, et al.

Reverting to Donnelly, U.S. Patent No. 6,460,181 B1, this discloses the function similar to the present invention in that both Donnelly and the present invention are directed to updating real time EPG data in order to implement a program navigation. However, a number of aspects distinguish Donnelly from the present invention. In particular, in Donnelly the EPG data is displayed directly on the TV monitor screen whereby the scrolling of the EPG data will interrupt the programming for predetermined periods of time a manner which is considered to be extremely annoying to a viewer since it vents the continuous viewing of a particular program during the periods when the EPG data is displayed on the television monitor screen.

In order to prove and provide a novel arrangement and function in view of Donnelly, pursuant to the present invention, as claimed the EPG data displayed on another device, such as a remote control unit, which also may be the program display and selection apparatus 10 having its own program table 78. This will permit selection of the program on the TV monitor screen 72 without any interruption during the viewing of a program 76.

Furthermore, in Donnelly the EPG data is never transmitted to another device from the digital broadcast receiver but is always directly displayed on the TV monitor screen,

thereby interrupting the display of a TV program which is currently being watched by a viewer as a result of the display of the TV program navigation incorporating the EPG data. This type of interruption of a TV program in order to determine other programs from EPG data is never encountered in the present invention contrary to the Donnelly function and structure.

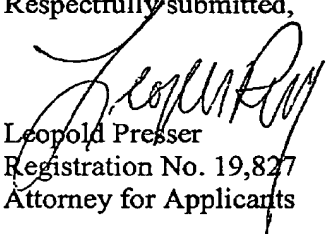
In regard to Huang, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,437,836 B1, although the later is similar to the invention the point where a TV program is selected from a program table utilizing a palm device, the acquisition procedure is different from that of receiving EPG data from the digital broadcast receiver 50 pursuant to the invention.

Hereby, an important and unique aspect of the present invention is in the EPG data initially through the digital broadcast receiver 50, whereby the EPG data is then handled and processed in the program display and selection apparatus 10 so as to be able to select a programs for a TV monitor 70 without interrupting a program which is presently being watched on the screen while enabling a viewer to ascertain other programs which may be of interest to him or her.

The foregoing distinctions have now be clearly emphasized in the amended claims, the later of which are deemed to clearly and patentably distinguish over the art, and favorable reconsideration of the claims and allowance of the application by the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

However, in the event that the Examiner has any queries concerning the instantly submitted Amendment, applicants' attorney respectfully requests that he be accorded the courtesy of possibly a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

Respectfully submitted,



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